



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 5, 2020  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Route To: Curriculum Supervisors, Principals, Special Education Directors, Principals  
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services

### **New Webinar Series to Support Families and Educators of Students with Dyslexia**

The New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education is pleased to offer school districts a four-part webinar series entitled, *The New Jersey Dyslexia Handbook: A Guide to Early Literacy Development and Reading Struggles*, which will guide educators and families through the process of identifying dyslexia and other reading disabilities. The webinar series will satisfy the professional development requirements set forth in P.L. 2013, c.105. The series highlights best practices for screening, assessment, instructing, and accommodating students with reading challenges.

Each of the four recorded sessions contains:

- A video webinar;
- A copy of the slide deck;
- A transcript of the video narration; and
- New Jersey Tiered System of Supports tools that can be embedded in the district's identification process.

Reading disabilities remain the most common form of specific learning disability in New Jersey. Early identification of dyslexia is critical to ensure that students receive the supports and interventions they need to become successful readers. A committee of dedicated specialists in the field of dyslexia and other reading disabilities collaborated for over a year on the [New Jersey Dyslexia Handbook](#). This webinar series can be used by a professional learning community or team to determine how the highlighted practices can become part of the school's literacy curriculum. School officials are encouraged to share the handbook with staff and visit the [NJDOE's dyslexia webpage](#) to take advantage of this professional learning opportunity. The webpage also contains additional webinars and a full listing of quality resources for educators, families, and caregivers.

Please review the NJDOE dyslexia webpage periodically for new professional learning tools and resources.

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group